

## CITY INTELLIGENCE.

## THE APPOINTMENT.

## The Proposed Redistricting of the City into Representative and Representative Districts—The Equality of the New Measure.

The State Senate yesterday the Committee on Apportionment reported a bill which divides Philadelphia into 33 districts, and 19 Representatives out of 100. There is to be no increase in the number of Senators, and only one in that of members of the House of Representatives. Below we give the number of taxables in each proposed district, and the population of the city. But there is still another outrage contemplated in the gross inequality of the proposed city districts. The First and Second districts are very fairly apportioned, both as regards taxables and population; but the proposed boundaries of the Third and Fourth are simply scandalous. The Third district, which is to consist of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, and Fortieth wards, embracing the very section of the city which is bound to show the largest increase in population, is to contain only 13,859 taxables and 127,770 inhabitants; while the Fourth district, which is to embrace the remainder of the city, is to contain 86,141 taxables and 672,230 inhabitants. The proposed Senatorial distribution is therefore so grossly unjust that it is to be hoped the House of Representatives will defeat the bill, even if the Democratic caucus should pass it.

The proposed boundaries of the Representative districts give the following number of taxables to each:

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The average constituency of the Representative districts throughout the State is placed at 8593 taxables and 33,160 inhabitants. Philadelphia, with 13 members, is given an average constituency of 8593 taxables and 33,160 inhabitants. This is about as fair an allotment in the aggregate as could be made, although there is a gross inequality in the arrangement of the districts. One of the smallest districts, the sixth, in which the population is 13,859 taxables and 127,770 inhabitants, is to contain only 13,859 taxables and 127,770 inhabitants; while the Fourth district, which is to embrace the remainder of the city, is to contain 86,141 taxables and 672,230 inhabitants.

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## THE COAL TRADE.

## The Predicted Famine Not Yet Come—The Various Plans for Overcoming the Difficulties in the Coal Trade—The Principles of Political Economy—The Further Increase of Freight Charges—Tonnage, Etc.

The coal famine so much talked of and so much dreaded has, up to this writing, not yet been heard of in reality. The startlingly low supply of New York city and Brooklyn has been found to exist nowhere but in the brains of those who had money to make by a rise in the prices of stock. In addition to the supply of anthracite, large quantities of bituminous coal are being shipped to the city by the Erie Road from Northern Pennsylvania.

New York for eight and nine dollars a ton, and the rate in this city for Lehigh and Schuylkill is about the same, or lower if anything.

It is interesting to notice the various plans which the miners are concocting now that there is a scarcity of coal at the mines, but which will be forgotten again as soon as things begin to work smoothly, by means of which all trouble is to be avoided in the future. One is that all work be stopped during certain months of the year, so that the production would not exceed the demand. Another is that there be a stoppage of one day in every week; another, that the mining community be divided into four classes, one class to stop work in summer, the second class in fall, the third in winter, and the fourth in spring. But in all these and other plans the projectors seem to lose sight entirely of a principle which every system of political economy acknowledges, whether free trade or otherwise. That principle is, that when the supply is greater than the demand, the price in this case is equivalent to it, the capacity of production is greater than what is needed to meet the requirements of the market, either prices must fall or the production must be diminished.

It is evident that the demand for coal is a diminution of the production, but they do not when there are too many workmen in any department of trade, some must leave and work at other branches which are not over-supplied. If they do not leave, the prices will lower until some one is forced to leave.

and so raise the prices for those who remain. No more money, comparatively, can come into the branch of industry, only what is there must be divided until it comes to the lowest living rate. It is also equivalent to a smaller number of working men, i. e., a reduction of the supply. But what is really aimed at is this—The number of men who work in the coal mines is too large, and the market demands. They shall work but a portion of the year, so as to put into the market only so much coal as it will bear. But they shall also receive for this portion of the year in which they work more money than in the remainder of the year, so that they will be able to live on the whole year at the good wages, not at a lower rate. This is manifestly unjust, and all plans or organizations which have for their object the maintenance of the coal trade, or the maintenance of the demand, are against law and order, and so long as such are held to there will be trouble.

This law is natural, and any plan not founded upon it cannot expect to succeed. No organization, no matter what its power may be, can long hold out if it has any other basis. It is no use trying to uphold the prices above the natural rate. In the end they will find their level, and the organization, whatever it may be, will have suffered. Then if the superfluous workmen will not leave, the prices will go so low that some will starve to death. This will reduce the supply, and the prices will rise again.

If some of the leaders would advise their men to quit mining and go West, where men are wanted to clear and cultivate the soil, both those who go and those who stay would have abundance. Some such plan will be the only feasible remedy for the difficulty. This is the rule in all professions. The legal profession is at present an example. It is overcrowded, and the majority of those in it cannot obtain a living by it. They therefore find employment in other ways not immediately connected with the legitimate business of the profession, or they leave it entirely. As it is now, no one is tempted to enter it expecting an open field, unless he considers that his abilities are such that he will be able to do others out.

It is very easy to perceive how the department of mining got into this condition. The production has been over-stimulated by opposing carrying and mining companies, the impetus being given at the time of the war, when the demand for coal was enormous. These companies have still been competing in the largest number of tons which could mine or carry, regardless of what the market could bear. The result has been that the coal has been exported and crowded into the regions, and they, being ignorant, have not been able to see that their services would be required only for a time, and so have come willingly. The companies now know not what to do with the enormous yearly yield which they have thus generated, and are unable to pay further for it. Now the remedy is to be applied. It must fall upon somebody, and the miner